

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO USDEL ALEXANDRIA IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6111

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 8523

EXDIS

FROM PECK

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, EG, IS

SUBJECT: AMOCO OPERATIONS IN GULF OF SUEZ

REF: CAIRO 8501

1. CAMPBELL HAS DELIVERED LETTER TO AMBASSADOR MENTIONED PARA 3 REFTEL. IT BREAKS NO SIGNIFICANT NEW GROUND, AND IS CLEARLY AN EFFORT TO PUT ON RECORD STEPS AMOCO HAS ALREADY TAKEN TO KEEP EMBASSY INFORMED OF EVENTS, FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS, AND COMPANY'S PLANS FOR RESUMPTION OF EXPLORATION ACITIVITES.

2. LETTER TAKES STRONG ISSUE WITH ISRAELI CONTENTIONS THAT VESSEL WAS NOT IN LOCATION REPORTED BY AMOCO, POINTING OUR THAT ACCURACY OF LOCATION IS CRUCIAL TO OPERATIONS AND VESSLES THEREFORE KNOW WHERE THEY ARE. ERROR OF MAGNITUDE ALLEGED BY ISREALIS IS THEREFORE IMPOSSIBLE.

3. LETTER ALSO REFERS TO ISREALI ALLEGATIONS THAT "EGYPTIANS VESSELS" ACCOMPANIED DEUTCHE TIDE ON AUGUST 17. WHILE AMOCO HAS ALWAYS USED EGYPTIAN VESSELS IN SUPPORT OF ITS OPERATIONS IN EGYPTIAN WATERS, BUT THERE WERE NONE PRESENT ON 17TH. (CAMPBELL SAYS THIS BEARS NO RELATION TO EARLIER QUESTION ON NAVAL ESCORTS).

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4. CAMPBELL, AGAIN, STRESSED PURELY COMMERCAIL NATURE OF

HIS COMPANY'S DESIRE TO GET ON WITH ITS EFFORTS, AND TOTAL LACK OF INTEREST IN POLITICAL MATTERS. HE EMPHASIZED INTENTION TO MOVE BACK INTO AREA NEXT WEEK, SINCE COMPANY CANNOT BEAR COSTS OF IDLE OR UNDERUTILIZED DRILL SHIPS, AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED.

5. IN DISCUSSION FOLLOWING READING OF LETTER, EMBOFF ASKED, INTER ALIA, WHAT AMOCO'S REACTION WOULD BE IN EVENT GOE URGED DELAY IN RESUMPTION OF ACTIVITY IN AREA OF INCIDENT. CAMPBELL SAID THEY WOULD HAVE TO HOLD IF ASKED. SINCE CONCESSION AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR RECOVERY OF EXPLORATION COSTS IF AND WHEN OIL IS FOUND, PROBLEM WOULD NOT BE TOO BIG. EMBOFF ASKED IF SOME RULE RE COSTS APPLIES IF COMPANY IS DELAYED FOR ANY OTHER REASON, AND CAMPBELL SAID THAT EXPLORATION COSTS ARE RECOVERABLE (EVIDENTLY IN OIL) IF THERE IS A PRODUCTIVE STRIKE.
EILTS

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